

It's So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Guidelines for Final Events (Mark 13:1-13)

Proposition: Every one of us can be guided down the uncertain path of final events by heeding the four guidelines we see in our text tonight.

- I. A Captivation With Felt Things** (Vs. 1-2)
 - A. Captivated By Trappings (Vs. 1)
 - B. Captivated By Truth (Vs. 2)
- II. A Curiosity Over Future Things** (Vs. 3-4)
 - A. The Search for Future Things (Vs. 3)
 - B. The Source for Future Things (Vs. 4)
- III. A Caution About Fearful Things** (Vs. 5-8)
 - A. A Caution About Deceivers (Vs. 5-6)
 - B. A Caution About Devastations (Vs. 7)
 - C. A Caution About Divisions (Vs. 8a-b)
 - D. A Caution About Disasters (Vs. 8c-e)
- IV. A Counsel For Final Things** (Vs. 9-13)
 - A. Counsel for Persecution (Vs. 9-10)
 - B. Counsel for Profession (Vs. 11)
 - C. Counsel for Pain (Vs. 12-13a)
 - D. Counsel for Perseverance (Vs. 13b)

Guidelines for Final Events (Mark 13:1-13)

People hated the way we played basketball @ Southern Tech. Exciting basketball is high flying fast running back & forth games. Ours was slow, held the ball pass back & forth and wait as long as possible. We

would wait the whole game out for just the last few minutes. By doing that we kept the game very close, and the end was always unpredictable. In the huddle w/45 sec. coach would tell us, this is what we've been waiting for, in these last few min, we will see who the better team is. Every thing had built up to the final few moments of the game, and it was always a nail biter. I believe in the heart of men there is a recognition that things are

1. A Captivation With Felt Things

Remember context? True godliness and devotion is not found in the pretense of scribes & pharisees but in the unassuming, unassuming faith of a widow woman.

A. Captivated By Trappings (vs 1) He was right! It was truly a beautiful building! The gold ornate trapping in the middle eastern seen would have

caused one to squint the eyes. The enormously brilliant white stones would have caused the temple mount to look like a snow capped mountain from a distance. Yet what did Jesus call it? a Den of thieves when it came to the collection of tithes & offerings

by the trapping secular culture, muslim might.
B. Captivated By Truth - Jesus responds w/ truth. The truth of the matter is that this Temple that they so admired was a dead shell and will be abolished by the end of the week and in 30 years will be turned into rubble by Rome. They were admiring a dead edapher when they had the living rose of Sharon in their midst! People prefer trapping over truth. Build a pretty building, lot of people come. People care more about wedding than they do marriage. When it comes

II. A Curiosity Over Future Things

Vs 3) Olivet Discourse: After hearing verse 2 disciples, he must be talking about far off end times events. So Peter... corner Jesus with their curiosity

A. The Search for Future Things

(Vs 3) - When you read this discourse you will not find a reprimand for asking questions concerning the future! There is nothing wrong with wanting to know what the Bible says about the end of time! Apocalyptic Eschatology. I had someone call me the other night w/ Bible questions. Questions deeper in the word. And you can't go wrong going into God's word. That leads to

B. The Source for Future Things

Now there are all sorts of people out there that will tell you about the future. From fortune tellers, to tea leaf readers, to crystal ball conjurers. But these men went to Jesus.

1) ...things are coming to some point of finality. That sense of the consummation of all things can be found not only in our world today but in the day of Jesus and even among his disciples. How are we to navigate future events? As followers of the Lord Jesus, what perspective should we hold about the events that take place around us every day? As we delve into chapter 13 of Mark we will see just that. And in these opening verses we see some guidelines concerning future events. Every one of us can be guided down the uncertain path of final events by heeding the four guidelines we see in our text tonight.

2) Guideline #1: don't be captivated by the temporal things around you.

3) ...it comes to prophecy, pay more attention to the truth of the word than the trappings of the world.

1) ...one writer said: "If then the Bible has foreknowledge, historical and scientific, beyond the permutation of chance, it truly the bears the fingerprint of God.

2)him over a concern about future events!

3) ...that God is out of control. But take assurance that he is in control! These must come to past. But yet that's not all that's not the end of things

Vs 32. No man knows the hour. But Jesus gives them exactly what they were looking for. Signs appearances, indicators. The search of future events ought to drive us to Jesus + his word. One... I'm convinced there is not one person that has been saved who wasn't brought to him over a con

III. A Caution About Fearful Things
In the following verses Jesus cautions his disciples about future events by pulling back the curtain of time and peering into a ^{Future} distance.

A. A Caution about Deceivers - Acts 5 mentions Gamaliel mentions these that claim to be the cl AM, the Christ. Pretenders, impostors. Even today. Rev Moon of Unification Church, Dan Keshish, Be cautious of those that raise themselves ^{up}.

B. A Caution about Devastations - Throng out the ages of mankind wars have persisted many which claim to be the war to end all wars. Yet walk in grave yards of our ~~young~~ nation and find graves from various wars. Don't be alarmed that God is out.

C. A Caution about Dissension - I remember the Olympics, East Germany, West Germany, Chekosllovakia. These nations dissolved before our eyes. Maps have been redrawn. Nations are in dissension & ^{antagonism} Dissension. Not all are up with it.

D. A Caution about Disasters - All our history books are littered with natural disasters from the volcanic eruption that destroyed Pompeii to the Tsunami of 06, 10 + 11. 0022 killed about 100,000 in Asia.

These are the pangs of the coming of the Son of Man!

IV. A Counsel For Final Things -

Jesus now gives personal counsel for disciples faced w/ end times treatment from the world.

A. Counsel for Persecution - These were events that lay just around the corner for these men. w/ Peter's sermon at Pentecost the end times is upon the whole world. We see these very words come to pass in Acts yet they are no less true today. In many regions of the world

B. Counsel for Profession - Many use this text to tell a preacher not to use notes "Open your mouth and he will fill it." But the context is that of profession under scrutiny. This has happened to me in many a witness encounter. Under fire

C. Counsel for Pain - How painful it is. Jesus is telling them know this will happen! Family betrayal and murder. Matt 10:34 What counsel from the Lord! It will be for my sake! Praying you know me more!

D. Counsel for Perseverance - It seems to be redemptive. He that finishes the race shall finish the race. This is not a hang on and you will make it. I believe in the perseverance of the Sinner not the saint.

V. Close - Does the evening news frighten you? Wars, conflict, disaster. There are simply the pangs of the coming of Jesus. Lift your eyes! He's coming. Be led by his these guidelines.

1) ...regions of the world today, such persiction is rampet and has been since the apostles first began to preach the gospel. But it is by such persecution that the gospel is preached through out the world. Paul is a great example of this. Saul bringing those of the Way back to Jerusalem for execution, then converted and eventually in chains stood before Kings and magistrates, telling to story of the Gospel. Emboldening those around him to further the good news.

2) ...Under fire. I'm sure you have all heard that song New grace about that special dying grace given at the end of life. Well here is that special speaking grace to guide the tongue for the glory of God in the midst of persecution.

3) Matthew 10:34-38 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

4) ...not the saint. Therefore those that know him and love him and are saved by him, they will finish the race! They will fight a good fight, they will keep the faith! When you stumble and falter, get up and continue on for the Lord.